

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT A 00837 081714Z

43

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SCCT-02 NIC-01 A-01 OPR-02 SY-04 EB-11 CAB-09

FAA-00 DOTE-00 DRC-01 /126 W
----- 078532

P R 081547Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7909

INFO COMNAVBASE GUANTANAMO BAY CUBA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, HA

SUBJECT: EXPLOSION AT PANAMERICAN AIRWAYS WAREHOUSE, PORT-AU-PRINCE
AIRPORT

REF: PORT-AU-PRINCE 0834

1. PAA SECURITY DIRECTOR ROBERT M. KUJATH AND PAA CARIBBEAN REGIONAL MANAGING DIRECTOR H.F. JACOBSON ARRIVED PORT-AU-PRINCE EVENING MAY 7. THEY WERE MET BY INTERIOR AND DEFENSE MINISTER PAUL BLANCHET, SECRET POLICE CHIEF LUC DESIR, PORT-AU-PRINCE PREFECT FIGARO, POLICE CHIEF DUPerval, DEPUTY POLICE CHIEF FRANCIS CHARLES AND FIRE CHIEF ACHILLE.

2. EMBASSY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OLMON MET THEM AT EMBASSY AT 2030 HOURS MAY 7 AND RECEIVED FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF THEIR FINDINGS AS OF THAT TIME: EXPLOSION OCCURED IN AREA WHERE CARGO FLIGHT HAD BEEN STORED. THERE WAS NO FIRE OR SMOKE IN CONNECTION WITH THE EXPLOSION AND NO RESIDUAL SMELL OF EXPLOSIVE LEFT IN DEBRIS. PAA INVESTIGATORS PLANNED TO START MAY 8 CHECKING UNDAMAGED CARGO IN WAREHOUSE AGAINST AIRWAY BILLS TO DETERMINE WHICH CARGO WAS DESTROYED AND WHERE IT ORIGINATED.

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PAGE 02 PORT A 00837 081714Z

3. OLMON OBSERVED AT BLAST SCENE HOLE ABOUT SIX BY SIX FEET IN WAREHOUSE ROOF WITH UPPER ENDS OF WALLS BELLED OUT BY EXPLOSION. WHATEVER BLEW UP WAS APPARENTLY SURROUNDED BY CRATES OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT WHICH DEFLECTED BLAST UPWARD.

4. EMBASSY HAS FOUND PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER TO ASSIST PAA INVESTIGATORS BUT WE HAVE NO OTHER TECHNICAL RESOURCES TO OFFER THEM. PAA REPRESENTATIVE HERE SUGGESTED WE ASK GUANTANAMO NAVAL BASE FOR EOD TEAM BUT WE CONSIDER THIS INAPPROPRIATE SINCE THERE IS NO EOD PROBLEM. WHAT INVESTIGATORS PROBABLY NEED IS POLICE OR FIRE MARSHAL TYPE OF EXPLOSIVES EXPERT.

5. RECOMMENDATION: SUGGEST DEPARTMENT CONTACT PAA IN NEW YORK AND MIAMI TO DETERMINE WHAT US GOVERNMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MAY BE NECESSARY AND AVAILABLE.
ISHAM

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Message Attributes

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